

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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## A NEW SPOTTED BABBLER FROM SIAM.

BY J. H. RILEY.<sup>1</sup>

When Dr. Hugh M. Smith returned to the United States, on a vacation from Siam, early in the past summer, he presented the U. S. National Museum with a small lot of birds, mostly collected on Koh Chang, a rather large island off the south-east coast of Siam. Dr. Smith informs me that the island is quite hilly and different in character from the opposite mainland, distant twelve or more miles, with deep water between. One of the birds is a babbler of the genus *Pellorneum*, related to *ruficeps* but quite distinct. I take pleasure in naming it after its discoverer:

***Pellorneum smithi***, sp. nov.

*Type*.—Adult female, U. S. National Museum, No. 277,379, Koh Chang Island, south-east Siam, April 4, 1924. Collected by Dr. Hugh M. Smith.

Similar to *Pellorneum ruficeps subochraceum*, but the upper-parts, flanks, and streaks on the chest much darker.

*Description*.—Pileum auburn; back, wings, and tail cinnamon brown; the outside primaries fuscous, edged with ochraceous-tawny; a cinnamon-buff superciliary streak, extending from the bill to the nape; ear-coverts tawny, bordered below and posteriorly by a dusky line; chin, throat, and malar region white; a band across the chest cinnamon-buff, heavily streaked with blackish; flanks buckthorn brown with obscure dusky streaks; under tail-coverts dresden brown edged narrowly with cinnamon-buff; remaining under-parts buffy-white; thighs tawny; under wing-coverts cinnamon-buff with some dusky markings. Wing, 65; tail, 58; culmen, 17; tarsus, 25; middle-toe, 16.5 mm.

*Remarks*.—Count Gyldenstolpe<sup>2</sup> records only two races of *Pellorneum* for Siam: *Pellorneum ruficeps subochraceum* Swinhoe and *Pellorneum ruficeps minus* Hume. Of the former the U. S. National Museum possesses

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<sup>2</sup>Ibis, 1920, 481.

a good series, but the latter is not represented. Various descriptions of Hume's form which have been consulted do not agree with *Pellorneum smithi*, nor does the plate (Cat. Birds Br. Museum, 7, 1883, pl. 13, fig. 1) of *Pellorneum intermedium* Sharpe, which Oates<sup>1</sup> puts in the synonymy of *Pellorneum minus*. If the plate and descriptions are anywhere near correct, *Pellorneum smithi* is a much darker bird and lacks the streaks on the hind-neck.

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<sup>1</sup>Fauna Br. India, Birds, 1, 1889, 141.